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Letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlafi, addressed to you, concerning the status of the United Nations offices and specialized agencies in Sana'a, in view of the continuous harassment by Houthi militias of the United Nations offices and staff (see annex).

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I would like to pay tribute to the United Nations and to you personally for supporting the peace process in Yemen and overseeing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. Your efforts have had a direct effect on the response to the humanitarian crisis and helped to alleviate the suffering of Yemenis.

I am writing to you today regarding the situation of the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Sana'a. The Government has previously warned that the Houthi militias are seeking to take control of the operations of United Nations offices, with a view to influencing their activities and forcing them to compromise their operating principles, impartiality, independence and integrity.

The Houthi militias have taken various measures to achieve that goal, including reducing to just three months the period for which United Nations officials can reside in Sana'a. This measure has deprived international civil servants of continuity and stability in their work, and that lack of continuity and stability has affected their ability to perform their duties. This has led to a situation in which there is total reliance on local staff, whom the militias have terrorized, threatened, detained and subjected to enforced disappearance in order to achieve their goal of taking control of the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Yemen. The letter dated 5 March 2018 from the United Nations staff union in Yemen addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, a copy of which was given to us, is quite clear in that regard. This is quite apart from the many violations committed by the militias responsible for the coup and their arbitrary practices with regard to United Nations humanitarian operations. Those violations and practices obligate the United Nations to take a firm position, in order to protect its staff in Yemen and enable the Organization to perform its duties in accordance with its operating principles.

The Yemeni Government is eager for United Nations offices and agencies to continue providing their important services to the Yemeni people throughout the country without exception, while respecting the principles of impartiality, independence and integrity. I should like to reiterate the request of the Yemeni Government to relocate the management of United Nations offices and agencies to areas that have been liberated from the militias that perpetrated the coup, but they should continue their operations in the various governorates of Yemen. Doing so would enable the United Nations to carry out its work, take decisions and assess the situation without pressure from the militias that perpetrated the coup. The Government is fully prepared to provide whatever facilitation is needed to make that happen. Since the start of the war in Yemen, the Government has demonstrated that it is a responsible partner for the United Nations and its offices and agencies at various levels, and that it is eager for the United Nations to continue its work in Yemen in accordance with its operating principles.

We understand very well the concerns that you may have about relocating the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to the liberated areas. The Yemeni Government and the commanders of the coalition to restore the legitimate authorities in Yemen are prepared to sit down with United Nations officials to discuss this matter and find an appropriate solution that would enable the offices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to continue providing their services to the Yemeni people in accordance with an arrangement that ensures their independence, impartiality and integrity, and the security and safety of international and local United Nations staff who are working in Yemen.

(*Signed*) Abdulmalik **Al-Mikhlafi**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs